

# CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

## Weekly Bulletin

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Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. II, No. 17

JUNE 9, 1923

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EDITOR

### Making Swimming Pools Safe Against Diseases.

Several physicians in California have written to the State Board of Health relative to the possible danger of contracting infections through the use of public bathing places. One of these physicians states that until recently he had not been particularly impressed with the idea that bathing in such places may be exceptionally hazardous, but that during the past few weeks he had seen several eye, ear and skin infections that he was certain had been contracted by his patients while swimming in a public pool. The danger of contracting disease is lessened greatly in a pool that is kept scrupulously clean, the water treated, if necessary, and replenished daily with a fresh supply, but infectious material may float upon the surface of the water, regardless of its original purity. For this reason it is important that there be adequate means for the continuous operation of an overflow device for the removal of surface waters.

Dr. J. W. Robinson, deputy health officer of Los Angeles County, calls attention to this danger in the June number of Health. He suggests that both inflow and outflow be, for the most part, at the surface of the pool, and that inlets should be so arranged that there shall be no dead corners

in which water is not moving and that the inlet should be from many points along one side and both ends of the pool with the outlet or overflow on the remaining side. This would undoubtedly be effective in removing infectious material from the surface of the pool.

It is important, too, that swimming suits be thoroughly sterilized after each use. Skin infections are frequently contracted through the use of soiled, infected suits. The California State Board of Health regulations for the sanitation of swimming pools cover many of these important factors in making swimming safe. Copies may be obtained by making application to the Secretary, Sacramento.



### State Must Discontinue Manufacturing Rabies Vaccine.

The State Board of Health has discontinued the manufacture of rabies vaccine and is, therefore, unable to continue the administration of the Pasteur treatment or the furnishing of rabies vaccine for local use. Patients now under treatment will be furnished the service to completion, but no further treatments can be undertaken. This product can be obtained from most pharmaceutical houses at moderate prices and there should be no difficulty in securing sufficient vaccine for use in any emergency that may arise.



### Health Officers to See Total Eclipse of Sun.

California health officers who attend the Annual Conference of State, County and Municipal Health Officials to be held in Coronado, September 10th to 14th, in conjunction with the Annual Convention of the League of California Municipalities will see a total eclipse of the sun. A partial eclipse will be visible from many localities in the state but a total eclipse will be seen only from Catalina, Coronado, San Diego and vicinity. This spectacular event will occur on September 10th, the opening day of the conference. The sun will begin to enter into eclipse at 11.32 in the morning and the total eclipse will begin at about 12.57 p.m., at which time the sun will disappear from view entirely and the stars will become visible. Totality will last for three minutes and one second, the sun reappearing at 35 seconds after 1.00 p.m. Many strikingly beautiful phenomena in lighting effects will be observed in connection with the eclipse. Astronomers from all parts of the United States will gather at Coronado and Catalina for the purpose of making scientific observations of the eclipse. It is perfectly safe to state that this spectacle will be the most magnificent feature ever to be associated with an annual conference of California health officers.



### The Rhinoceros and the Bird.

Naturalists tell us of a bird that rides on the back of the rhinoceros as the huge beast feeds through the jungle marshes, and when an enemy approaches the bird sounds the alarm and the rhinoceros dashes away to safety. Strange as it might seem, the common fly has endeavored for centuries to warn man of the invisible germs in decaying organic matter, but unlike the rhinoceros, man ignores the warning. The fly himself is not dangerous—it's the company he keeps. No doubt a fly is continually fighting microbes as a dog fights fleas. But even a fly must live, and man in his carelessness provides for the flies. The average town has enough open toilets and manure piles so that the flies have not known a hard year "since the white man came."—Montana State Board of Health Bulletin.

### House Flies Less Numerous But Still Too Plentiful.

"Many regard the common house fly as comparatively harmless, yet it is a most efficient carrier of germs of typhoid fever, cholera, and other diseases which annually take a large number of human lives.

"We can not urge too strongly the proper disposal or early disinfection of any materials likely to carry disease germs, otherwise a community may be confronted by a fly-borne epidemic of dysentery or typhoid. The exclusion of flies from the sickroom and the proper care of all discharges is imperative to the well-being not only of one's own family, but of others.

"House flies are plentiful, largely because the human race is careless in the proper disposal of the refuse in which flies breed. They should be kept out of human dwellings and away from human food, especially that which is to be eaten raw or without further cooking. More than one outbreak of typhoid fever has resulted from the consumption of cold foods, cooked or raw, to which flies have had access,

"Generally speaking, it is not necessary in this day of the automobile to live with and among hordes of annoying and dangerous flies. We have them largely because there are nearby breeding places. Before the days of the automobile, when the horse was a member of the family, as it were, and the accompanying manure piles or fly nurseries were running full blast, it was by no means easy to keep down the numbers of these pests. The partial elimination of flies in villages following the advent of the automobile is thus largely accidental. This smaller fly population, however, does not justify carelessness in relation to infected materials, since one fly which has had access to such material is capable of carrying infection and even death.

"Let us recognize the true character of the house fly, and, grasping the possibilities of fly control with its greater freedom from sickness and the woeful consequences frequently following a disregard of this menace, resolve that our premises shall not be allowed to produce flies and that we will cooperate in working for a flyless community, a flyless world."—Dr. E. P. Felt, State Entomologist, New York.



## Gifts of Bad Sanitation.

A father recently wrote to a prominent physician as follows:

"We have a healthy boy of four years. A neighbor strongly advises my wife to take him to visit friends whose children have measles and mumps in order that he may have those diseases before he is old enough to go to school. Your opinion in good strong language will be appreciated."

It is cheering evidence of the advance of public knowledge and practices in regard to health that the neighbor's suggestion sounds idiotic if not actually criminal. Enlightened persons—parents, teachers and physicians dealing with children—no longer hold to the ancient superstition that every child must have these erroneously called "children's diseases." An interesting number of youngsters is growing up escaping one or more of these infections.

The old habit of lightly speaking of "children's diseases" and lightly regarding them as a minor nuisance, is now outgrown. They are recognized as the serious things they are, to be avoided. Measles causes more deaths than scarlet fever. In the town from which the inquiry came, measles causes more deaths than whooping cough.

Measles, mumps, whooping cough, scarlet fever and all the rest are the "gifts of bad sanitation or bad public hygiene," says the irate doctor. They all carry the possibility of grave and lasting after-effects as menacing to the child's future well-being as the initial disease itself. The best thing to do is to keep away from them.—Hanford Journal.



Bringing malnourished children up to weight is the best prevention of tuberculosis.

A boy can study all his life but he can only grow once.

The underweight child who is made to practice on the piano or the violin may be playing his own funeral march.

It isn't money that is best for children; it's health.

Poverty is only a secondary cause of malnutrition.

All the causes of malnutrition can be removed in any child, in any home, anywhere. Remove the cause and the child will get well.—W. R. P. Emerson, M.D.

## MORBIDITY.\*

### Diphtheria.

119 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 9, Los Angeles 37, San Francisco 21, Oakland 12, Fresno County 5, Sonoma County 4, Riverside 1, Turlock 1, Merced County 2, Vallejo 1, Oroville 1, Glendale 1, Taft 1, Contra Costa County 3, Pasadena 2, Sacramento 2, Yuba County 1, Alameda 2, Berkeley 2, Orange County 1, Eagle Rock 1, San Fernando 1, Alhambra 1, Albany 1, Stockton 2, Ventura County 1, Kern County 1, Long Beach 2.

### Measles.

911 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Stockton 15, Sacramento 66, Kern County 12, San Joaquin County 25, Alameda 57, Berkeley 58, Manteca 8, Lodi 46, Alhambra 8, Sacramento County 8, Tulare County 9, Gilroy 12, Santa Clara County 23, Livermore 10, Merced County 6, Los Angeles County 23, Pasadena 15, Los Angeles 108, Oakland 76, Piedmont 10, San Diego County 6, Chico 7, Palo Alto 52, Mayfield 11, Burbank 5, Albany 5, San Francisco 129, Stanislaus County 2, Turlock 2, San Bernardino County 4, Santa Clara County 3, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, Pomona 4, San Fernando 1, Redwood City 3, Modoc County 2, Tracy 2, East San Diego 3, Richmond 1, Contra Costa County 1, Vacaville 3, Redlands 1, Santa Cruz 1, La Mesa 2, Chino 1, Riverside 2, Santa Ana 1, Morgan Hill 2, Glendale 3, Calistoga 1, Alameda County 2, Covina 4, Redondo Beach 2, Mill Valley 1, Claremont 4, Watsonville 1, Beaumont 4, Orange County 4, Dinuba 3, Montebello 1, Amador County 2, Riverbank 3, Long Beach 7, Walnut Creek 2, San Mateo 14.

### Scarlet Fever.

142 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Sacramento 5, Oakland 7, Los Angeles County 13, Los Angeles 36, San Francisco 13, Pomona 12, Glendale 4, Colusa County 2, Santa Ana 1, Newman 1, Colton 2, Richmond 3, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Clara County 1, Daly City 1, San Rafael 1, Stanislaus County 2, Chico 3, San Fernando 1, Tulare County 1, Santa Monica 2, Fresno County 2, San Bernardino County 1, East San Diego 1, Glendora



3, Pasadena 2, Hawthorne 1, Stockton 2, Alameda 2, Ukiah 2, San Gabriel 1, Amador County 1, Orange County 2, Huntington Park 1, Berkeley 4, Whittier 1, Marin County 1, Long Beach 3.

#### Whooping Cough.

96 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Monterey County 6, Los Angeles County 7, Los Angeles 6, Chico 9, Pasadena 9, Alameda 5, San Diego County 5, San Francisco 17, Piedmont 5, Santa Monica 3, Richmond 1, Benicia 1, Redlands 2, Madera 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 3, Whittier 1, Banning 1, Oakland 1, Riverbank 1, Santa Paula 1, Alameda 1, San Joaquin County 2, Berkeley 3, Stockton 1, Lodi 2, Long Beach 1.

#### Smallpox.

19 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles

County 1, Los Angeles 7, Ventura County 9, Ventura 1, Santa Clara County 1.

#### Typhoid Fever.

10 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Richmond 1, Los Angeles 1, Ventura County 1, Burbank 1, Modoc County 1, Imperial County 1, National City 1, Calexico 1, Vernon 1.

#### Poliomyelitis.

Redlands reported two cases of poliomyelitis.

#### Epidemic Encephalitis.

San Francisco reported 3 cases and Vallejo 1 case of epidemic encephalitis.

\*From reports received on June 4th and 5th for week ending June 2d.

#### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS.

Disease	1923				1922			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending June 2 received by June 5	Week ending			Reports for week ending June 3 received by June 6
	May 12	May 19	May 26		May 13	May 20	May 27	
Anthrax.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebrospinal Meningitis.....	2	1	0	0	3	1	2	1
Chickenpox.....	295	331	249	166	163	164	165	113
Diphtheria.....	154	167	167	119	126	118	114	106
Dysentery (Bacillary).....	0	1	2	3	1	0	0	1
Epidemic Encephalitis.....	1	1	2	4	5	2	4	2
Gonorrhoea.....	94	113	82	105	95	60	55	47
Influenza.....	64	18	32	20	34	21	24	13
Leprosy.....	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Malaria.....	4	3	3	2	2	4	0	3
Measles.....	1418	1403	1084	911	47	33	45	41
Mumps.....	36	34	35	25	45	74	53	27
Pneumonia.....	67	60	49	64	63	77	72	54
Poliomyelitis.....	0	3	1	2	0	2	0	1
Scarlet Fever.....	202	171	168	142	143	130	115	68
Smallpox.....	29	43	32	19	37	38	36	18
Syphilis.....	180	147	85	54	133	113	72	25
Tuberculosis.....	190	143	182	83	157	206	178	128
Typhoid Fever.....	21	12	10	10	9	22	11	12
Whooping Cough.....	299	224	167	96	103	98	81	60
Totals.....	3057	2875	2351	1825	1168	1163	1027	720